

# Ahead Of the Man At the Front

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The type of American fighting man who is best known abroad and least known at home is the United States marine, first to land on a hostile shore in time of war or disturbance. The first man to be killed when the United States seized Vera Cruz was Daniel Aloysius Haggerty of the Second Regiment, United States Marines.

In almost every difficulty in which the United States has had a part, ahead of the man "at the front" went the United States marines, soldiers of the sea. In the war with Mexico of 1847 marines were with Gen. Winfield Scott from the moment he landed at Vera Cruz until he captured the capital of the Mexican Republic.

When President Thomas Jefferson defied the power of the pirates of Tripoli he sent marines across 600 miles of desert land to humble the pride of the barbarians of Africa. At the time of the Boxer uprising when all the civilized world feared for the lives of Caucasians in Peking, a handful of United States marines rushed through the hostile lines from the coast to the Chinese capital and defended the beleaguered Caucasians until the International Army could arrive.

Kipling said of the marines:

An' after I met 'em all over the world,  
a-doin' all kinds of things  
Like landin' 'emself with a Gatlin'  
gun to talk to them 'eathen  
kings:  
E sleeps in an 'ammack instead of a  
cot, an' e drills with the deck on  
a sloop;  
There isn't a job on top of the earth  
the beggar don't know or do.  
Fou can leave 'im at night on a bald  
man's 'ead to paddle his own  
cane;  
E's a sort of a bloomin' cosmopolite  
—soldier and sailor, too.

The insignia on the cap of the United States marine is a globe and anchor. His motto is "Semper Paratus," meaning "faithful always" or "faithful to the last." The American marine is known in the frozen countries. He is familiar to dwellers in the tropics. He is the great emphatic backer up of the orders of the United States. Respected and feared abroad, at home he is so little known the average American thinks he is a sailor.

The marine sometimes fights aboard ship, but he is just as often on land. There are 10,000 of him in the United States service and he wears six uniforms fit for any climate and any rainstorm. Dressed in the uniform used in a rainy climate he would not be recognized by an American as one of his own soldiers. Dressed in the uniform for arctic wear he looks more like a Russian. His other uniforms are for dress occasions and for field service. He does not know much about navigation, but he does know how to make a landing under fire and give a good account of himself after landing.

The marine service is not one

which will appeal to a man who is not filled with the spirit of adventure. He has to fight in time of peace as well as in war. Since the Spanish-American War he has been called out repeatedly to suppress uprisings in our colonial possessions. There are not enough marines to carry on a long protracted war. There are enough for a dash and a sting. There are enough to put down small disturbances and put them down in a hurry.

The daily papers frequently carry the information, "The marines have the situation in hand," or "Marines will be rushed to the seat of trouble."

## READY FOR FIGHT AT MOMENT'S NOTICE.

The marines are ready for a fight at a moment's notice. The word "rush" as applied to marine service is rush indeed. When trouble broke out intermittently along the Mexican coast the last few years our battleships were sent to the ports of greatest disturbance. On board every battleship were several hundred marines ready to land at the word go.

The marines are no heavier than the soldiers of the "bluecoats" whose names have been written in the lists of the dead in our troubles with Mexico, but they are more versatile.

The soldier fights on land and would be almost useless on sea. The sailor fights on sea and from his man-of-war rains shells on the cities of the enemy of this country. The marine is amphibious. He fights anywhere and anytime. He is a seaman, an artilleryman or a first-class infantryman. He is assigned to scouting duty and in time of need becomes the signal corps.

The marines have a song known in every port in the world which has a line in it about "From the Hell Hole of Cavite to the Ditch at Panama. You Will Find Them Very Needy of Marines." The song starts with "From the Hell of Montezuma to the Shores of Tripoli." The marines have been to all those places. A recital of the lands where they have died fighting to carry out the orders of Uncle Sam sounds like a geography lesson. The list includes China, Japan, Korea, Egypt, Algiers, Tripoli, Chili, Mexico, Cuba, Sumatra, Formosa, Hawaii, Santo Domingo, Porto Rico, Nicaragua and a hundred other places.

When fighting on the battleships or cruisers, to which they are assigned, they man the six-inch, five-inch and three-inch guns and the six-pounders of the intermediate and secondary batteries. They are trained and fully equipped for instant service as landing parties. When they land they take with them, if needed, ship guns of three, five, and six-inch caliber. Part of their training is to mount these pieces in suitable shore positions. They are taught the various methods of slinging and transporting ordnance.

When not fighting they serve aboard the battleships and cruisers as sentinels. They watch over the gangways and over the boats alongside. They give alarm in case of

UPPER left—Marines on a hostile shore, signaling to the fleet. Upper right—Marines in action in Mexico. Center—Lindley M. Garrison, Secretary of War. Lower right—Secretary of Navy Josephus Daniels.

fire. They are to see to it that no smoking or washing of clothes goes on except during the prescribed hours. They allow no enlisted man or boat to leave the ship's side without the authority of the officer of the deck. They act as guards of prisoners and at all times are to maintain discipline and good order. When the fleet is in port, either home or foreign, they constitute the deck guard for purposes of rendering honors. At cities where they are stationed they usually form part of the guard of honor for military funerals.

Ashore in foreign countries they fight or discharge peaceful duties, according to need. And when there is any fighting to be done they are generally the men who start the fighting. They open the way for bigger fighting, if such should be necessary. They are the forerunners of both the army and navy. They are the "hurry up, clean 'em up quick and eat 'em alive boys." Except in case of big and important fighting the marines finish the job alone.

## ORGANIZATION STARTS WITH REVOLUTION.

The United States Marine Corps was first called into existence by an Act of the Continental Congress on November 10, 1775, and gallantly served with distinction throughout the Revolutionary War. It was disbanded at the close of the war, April 11, 1782, but was reorganized and permanently established July 11, 1798.

The reason for the reorganization was the outbreak of the troubles with France. The rise of Napoleon to supreme authority in France ended hostilities and the marines did not get a chance to fight France. Since then they have given a good account of themselves. In the Civil War they were the first to be rushed to the Southern ports. We hear little of the marines during the Civil War because of the gigantic armies in the field at that time. The skirmishes of the marines were overshadowed by the immense

undertakings of the big armies. Besides nearly all the marines were killed before the bigger battles.

New recruits took their places. At the time of the Spanish-American War there were but 2,500 in the Marine Corps. They played an important part in the landing of troops at Santiago and in the Philippines.

The chief commander of the marines is Maj. Gen. George Barnett. The corps is under the supervision of Secretary of Navy Daniels, but in time of need they can be attached to the army and be under orders of Secretary of War Garrison.

For risking their lives in every land the marines get the magnificent salary of \$15 a month. At the end of three years they get \$18 a month. At the end of six years continuous service a private gets \$21 a month.

Ability at marksmanship gives the marines better pay. Increased pay is given for foreign service. The top notch for enlisted men is \$63 a month. Of course, clothing, food and a hammock to sleep in are furnished by Uncle Sam, who boards them aboard a battleship,

in a tent, in a barracks or anywhere he can find a place for them. The standard of marksmanship of the marines is extremely high. They are required to be good shots and are kept continually at practice and drill.

Great mobility and facilities for quick action are required of the marines. They must be kept in readiness to move at a moment's notice without any previous warning, and in many of the actions in which they have engaged they have had to contend with great odds by way of superior numbers.

The battle of Guantanamo Bay (Cuba) during the late war with Spain is a good instance of the great odds with which marines have to contend. A battalion of 23 officers and 623 men was landed on the shores of Guantanamo Bay on June 10, 1898, and with but little food and no rest, engaged a very large Spanish force, which was concealed in the swamps and underbrush thereabouts for three days and nights, and finally succeeded in defeating and driving the enemy entirely out of the district. It takes strong healthy men to withstand such hardships, consequently

the great care that is exercised in the enlistment of recruits.

## SEVERE EXAMINATION FOR ENLISTMENT.

The examination of applicants for enlistment in the marine corps, while being thorough, is simple, and is merely intended to prove the candidate intelligent, of moderate education, physically sound and free from diseases and bodily ailments or deformity. One of the most exacting tests is of the eyesight, for in modern warfare with the latest improved rifles of long range, good eyesight is an absolutely necessary quality to be possessed by a soldier. With the increased range of modern rifles, actual fighting begins at a greater range than a mile. Therefore, in a duel between sharpshooters at a range of say 1,000 yards, it will be readily understood that the man with the clearest and best eyesight will come out victor.

Another important examination is of the feet. A marine in active service is often times called upon to perform forced marches over all kinds of ground under various conditions of weather. If he is afflicted with flat feet, hammer toes, bunions or ingrown toe nails, he will soon become crippled and be unable to keep up with the march, thus becoming a cure and impediment rather than of any assistance in carrying out the duty at hand. Likewise, if he has weak heart or

lung he will be unable to stand the fatigue of a hard march or the noise and excitement of a battle aboard ship, or his lungs will be unable to withstand the nauseating gases from the great guns.

There has been but one year since 1900 when the marines were not called for duty on some foreign shore. Prior to the fighting in Mexico twenty-six were killed.

Nineteen of these, one of them an officer, fell during the international relief expedition to protect the foreign legations at Peking during the Boxer rebellion in 1900. In the following year two were killed in the Samar campaign in the Philippines. Five were killed in Nicaragua in October, 1912, while fighting against revolutionists. The President of Nicaragua, members of his Cabinet and other prominent citizens of the Central American republic, attended the funeral service of the four marines killed in the fight at Barranca Hill, near Masaya. In addition, as soon as Gen. Emiliano Chamorro, then Minister of Foreign Affairs of Nicaragua, learned of the deaths of the marines he called on American Minister Wetzel and expressed his sympathy and that of his government.

In 1907, the one year since 1900, when the marines were not called on for military service, they aided in the humanitarian work of helping the earthquake sufferers of the Island of Jamaica.

## DYNAMITE FOR SOIL FERTILITY

The business men of Colby, encouraged by last year's success in reclaiming blown land, have decided to work another large tract this year and teams are already at work listing and plowing the ground which was supposed to have been ruined forever.

There were two large tracts near Colby from which the entire surface was blown several years ago, one tract north of the city and the other east of town. The surface in both instances was as hard as a paved street.

Two years ago a tract of several thousand acres was listed and planted to cane. Not only was the cane grown of extraordinary quality, but the ground is said to be now under complete control. This tract, east of Colby, was the worst blown land in Western Kansas.

The business men of Colby at a meeting a few days ago, after hearing of the success in reclaiming the east tract, decided to take charge of the north tract, and it was divided up into quarter or half sections and distributed among the merchants, who employed men and teams and set them to work at once. The Foster Lumber Company, possessing more than ordinary faith in the work of reclaiming the blown land, bought several sections and have rented twenty quarters besides and the company now has fifty teams working the ground. The ground may not all

be planted to cane, but other grains may be planted to test the power of the land to produce a variety of crops.

For several years the land has been destitute of population, but this spring several families have moved into the blown district and each family is caring for all the ground it can possibly take care of, some of them trying several hundred acres.

Men who have visited that section of the country marvel at the faith of the people in their home country and consider it remarkable the way the older inhabitants stay with it. The work of reclaiming this blown land was regarded as hopeless, but it is proving a success, and the people of the Western counties say that if the business men of Colby are successful this year with the tract of blown land north of Colby the problem of blown land troubles will have been solved.

## The Star Attraction.

Hostess—I am glad you children decided to come for dinner.

Little Jessie—We didn't turn for dinner; we turn to hear Willie's grandpa eat his soup.—Judge.

## One Answer.

Teacher (drawing two parallel lines on the blackboard)—What relation are these lines to each other? Head of the Class—Twins!—Judge.